the degrees earned by the students in these professional courses since 1995 have merit, at par with other Central Universities.

(b) In ODL system, there are two internationally accepted and practiced methodologies namely (i) providing Self-Instructional Material for all the courses of Programmes with adequate support services and (ii) identify good books and develop wrap-around material. For the BCA and MCA Programmes, IGNOU adopted mixed mode initially. Subsequently, Self-Instructional material were produced in-house in 23 courses for BCA and all the courses of MCA (new version).

(c) The material delivered by the University are of the highest standard and recognized internationally. The students are accepted by the employers, educational institutions and peers. IGNOU course materials have been adopted/adapted by 11 State Open Universities and 20 Distance Education Directorates of Conventional Universities.

Indian Institute of Science Education and Research

3821. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research in the country;

(b) whether Government propose to set up more such Institutes to boost research in basic science;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the name of the States where these institutes are likely to be set up, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) Two Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) have been established in Kolkata, West Bengal and Pune, Maharashtra.

(b) to (d) The Government propose to set up the third USER in Punjab. In addition, the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister have recommended setting up of two more IISERs in the country during the next Five Year Plan period.